

2020
INNOVATION
AWARDS





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CONSERVE
AFRICA



For those demonstrating outstanding leadership in the complex area of conservation, embarking on bold initiatives to protect Africa's natural resources.

BAHIA MAR BOUTIQUE HOTEL

SAVE THE SEA HORSE

Project launch date

March 2019

Please outline the initiatives context, objectives and scope:

The seahorses all over the world have been under pressure from poaching in these last years and in Vilankulo this is not an exception. Seahorses are protected in Mozambique by the Biodiversity Law. On World Tourism Day, 27th September 2018, we launched a short-term campaign to combat seahorse poaching in collaboration with the local authorities and in partnership with the local organization ParCo. The project was so successful that we are now extending to a long term conservation initiative.

There are three seahorse species in this area: Hippocampus Camelopardalis, H. Kuda and H. Histrix. The latter two are on the IUCN red list. The campaign set the stage for ongoing work around 1) education, 2) enforcement and 3) tourism development for alternative income. Presently Bahia Mar is also helping in the coordination of seahorse research around the Bazaruto Archipelago in partnership with specialists in this field.



BAHIA MAR BOUTIQUE HOTEL

What is your company's role in the project and level of contribution?

Bahia Mar financially supported the launching of this conservation campaign:

1. Signage. - These signs were designed, built and installed at seven locations along the coast of Vilankulo including in the fishing village where seahorse poaching was rampant. A big step in the right direction.
2. Enforcement - Sponsoring of the uniforms for the Conservation-minded fishermen monitor their peers.
3. Sponsoring a monthly retainer to ParCo, a local community uplifting organisation, in order to manage the seahorse protection project.
4. Presently Bahia Mar incentivises the growth of this tourism attraction offering seahorse safaris to the guests. Former poachers earn an alternative income showing seahorses to tourists. 25% of the tour fees go to a seahorse protection tax managed by the village fishing committee.

Please quantify the tangible results and overall impact of the initiative

1 - busted capture of more than 1,500 dried seahorses ready for traffic. These were photographed and sent to the seahorse specialist Dr. Louw Claassens, from Knysna Basin Project for identification and scientific studies.

12 - the number of community members from the small fishing village trained and involved in the law enforcement and anti-poaching campaign.

6 - the number of ex seahorse poachers that are now working as tourist guides.

40 - number of seahorse tourism safaris in 2019 (the first year of operation).

Approx. \$2,000 - the turnover in 1 year from the seahorse safari tax managed by the village fishing committee.

1 - very successful field trip campaign visit from the seahorse specialist Dr. Louw Claassens. This trip opened the doors for the scientific approach of this project. A next step to the study of this species and to grow the knowledge of their biology in this area.



KENSINGTON TOURS

NEKTON MISSION - FIRST DESCENT: SEYCHELLES

Project launch date

2 February 2019

Please outline the initiatives context, objectives and scope:

Kensington Tours has partnered with not-for-profit foundation Nekton on First Descent: Indian Ocean; a series of missions in partnership with Indian Ocean Governments to catalyse 30% protection by 2030.

The Indian Ocean is home to nearly 2.7B people, and will be home to half the world's population by 2050. Faced by increased pollution, rapid coastal development, and growing marine life exploitation, the Indian Ocean's future is uncertain; it remains one of the least protected oceans on Earth. Indian Ocean nations identified development of the Blue Economy as top priority for generating jobs, food security, poverty alleviation, and ensuring sustainability.



KENSINGTON TOURS

What is your company's role in the project and level of contribution?

Kensington Tours is a founding partner of Nekton and has supported the organization for the past four years. During the 2019 Seychelles Mission, and for the 2020 Seychelles and Maldives Mission, Kensington Tours has and will be a Mission Partner, the highest tier of partnership support with Nekton, contributing over \$1M USD each year. Kensington Tours also provides support for strategic growth planning for Nekton as they develop and grow as an organization to expand their reach and impact.

Please quantify the tangible results and overall impact of the initiative

The 2019 mission achieved:

- 300+ scientific gear deployments
- 75 scientific submersible dives
- 1200+ biological samples collected
- 100+ stereoscopic video transects, covering 25km of seabed
- 30,000 m2 of new high-resolution 3D seabed maps
- 20TBs of marine science data
- Protection of an area 10 times the size of Switzerland in Seychelles EEZ
- 2 Fellowships to Oxford University, and 6 research grants for Seychellois
- 600,000 students participated in Submarine STEM Live
- Global reach of 4391 broadcast packages aired in 140 nations
- First live subsea Presidential Address



NATURAL SELECTION

ELEPHANT EXPRESS

Project launch date

January 2020

Please outline the initiatives context, objectives and scope:

Natural Selection feel strongly that nature benefits us all and to preserve it, we need ways to share our planet with the myriad of species and their habitats. That's how the "Elephant Express" came about – enabling communities to share a corridor with elephants along the panhandle of the Okavango Delta. One to two people are killed a year by elephants here, including children walking several kms to school. Through EcoExist's work, safe transport for school children was identified as a priority for mitigating human-elephant conflict. In January, Natural Selection launched two Elephant Express buses to service schools in these villages.



NATURAL SELECTION

What is your company's role in the project and level of contribution?

Natural Selection, with its operational partner Uncharted Africa, is the sole funder of this project. We have launched the buses under EcoExist's extensive programme on human-elephant mitigation in this area of the Delta and with the help of the Okavango Community Trust who will run the buses. We have worked alongside our partners in laying out operational plans for the buses and we have negotiated optimal service conditions from local Toyota dealership, Halfway Toyota, and sponsorship of the insurance from SATIB.

Please quantify the tangible results and overall impact of the initiative

Children from Eretsha, Beetsha and Gunotsoga schools are now transported safely to and from school on a daily basis for the foreseeable future. While youngsters are at school the buses are available to transport patients to Gudigwa, Seronga and Beetsha clinics. This project celebrates Botswana's elephants and allows residents to live safely and sustainably alongside the elephants, mitigating human-wildlife conflict. The buses bear beautiful illustrations of elephants and are kitted out with educational material, passing on the message that it's possible to live alongside and mutually benefit from elephants through tourism.



OKONJIMA NATURE RESERVE

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CLIMATE ON FREE-RANGING AARDVARK AND PANGOLIN

Project launch date

1 January 2019

Please outline the initiatives context, objectives and scope:

Climate change on global scale is now occurring at an unprecedented rate. Ants and termites experience population crashes during drought years which is occurring more often as temperatures are rising. Aardvark and pangolin exclusively feed on ants and termites and are negatively impacted when these population crashes occur. The project aims to determine how the body condition of aardvark and pangolin changes with drought and good rainfall years. Additionally, the project aims to determine the effects of drought on their activity patterns. This study will determine to what extent does climate change impact these species.



OKONJIMA NATURE RESERVE

What is your company's role in the project and level of contribution?

Okonjima Nature Reserve provides a home base for the AfriCat Foundation to conduct its research. Through responsible eco-tourism at Okonjima Lodge, guests have the opportunity to observe the different research projects in action. The tourism generates the funds which cover the project's running costs, salaries, vehicles, fuel, and VHF transmitters. In addition to the funding, this promotes AfriCat's motto which is conservation through education, by exposing tourists to the research first-hand. These activities help raise awareness across the globe for these two vulnerable species.

Please quantify the tangible results and overall impact of the initiative

The project saw a drastic decline in the numbers of aardvarks and pangolin whom were tagged as part of the research. Aardvark were losing body condition at alarming rates and many fell victim to predation. More than 50% of the tagged pangolin died from July 2019-November 2019, with no surviving individuals under 6 kg. These results suggest that climate change has a negative impact on populations of pangolin whom are already under pressure from trafficking and on aardvark whom are a keystone species. Losing high numbers of these individuals can trigger a cascade effect within ecosystems.



TIME+TIDE

TIME+TIDE FOUNDATION - CROWNED LEMUR TRANSLOCATION PROJECT

Project launch date

December 2019

Please outline the initiatives context, objectives and scope:

Ultimately, through the Crowned Lemur Conservation Project in Madagascar, TIME + TIDE and it's Foundation are investing in the growth of this threatened species as well as training young biologists on how to become effective conservationists to assist in the prevention of this threat in future.

Objectives

- Translocation of endangered species such as Crowned Lemur requires close collaboration with and endorsement from communities living in and around the protected area.
- To create a partnership between government, communities, local Universities, expert NGO organisations and TIME + TIDE to create the best opportunity for future prevention of lemur poaching in the area and long-term survival of the endangered Crowned Lemur Species.
- This is a decade long project, with the need for multiple translocations in order to ensure genetic diversity of the species on the island as well as education and outreach on the mainland to ensure habitat and species protection.



TIME+TIDE

What is your company's role in the project and level of contribution?

- In December 2019, TIME + TIDE for the second time facilitated the translocation project and partnership between Madagascar government and local stakeholders .
- In the mainland forest where the lemurs were moved from, we have employed full-time rangers to monitor all lemur species and lead outreach to schools and residents on the importance of habitat and wildlife conservation. The rangers promote ownership of the community's natural assets and the long-term benefits of safeguarding the biodiversity of the area.
- We arrange daily monitoring of the lemurs on our island by the TIME + TIDE Environmental Team and local University students, all of whom were trained in the use of tracking devices. This has yielded a vast amount of data regarding Lemur activities, timings, duration, and exact location for each individual.

Please quantify the tangible results and overall impact of the initiative

- The successful translocation of four crowned lemurs from the Madagascar mainland to the island of Nosy Ankao.
- This translocation brings the total lemur population to 11. With more genetic diversity amongst lemurs now on the island, they are expected to establish discrete home ranges and therefore reduce the competition for mates and territories.
- The Project included establishing a tree nursery and reforestation programme in the mainland community. Beyond the successful lemur translocation, there have also been over 2000 trees planted and 120 residents trained on reforestation techniques.
- When the Lemur population has outgrown Nosy Ankao's capacity, the long-term goal is to return some of the offspring to the mainland to repopulate areas that have been highly impacted by human poaching.
- Some community members of Nosy Ankao are now part of the TIME + TIDE Miavana Environmental Team and in charge of environmental outreach to local schools and are responsible for assisting TIME + TIDE Miavana guides when guests go on a lemur tracking tour.

